

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1, 3-13, 15, 17, 19, 21 and 22 have been amended. Claims 16 and 20 have been cancelled. No new material is introduced herein. Claims 1, 3-13, 15, 17, 19, 21 and 22 are pending.

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the courtesy shown to their representative by Examiner Vo during the telephone interview of July 20, 2005. During the course of the interview, the Examiner indicated that it may be helpful to amend the claims to recite language to recite how successive (or "next") word strings were subject to certain of Applicants' steps. The claims have been so amended.

Claims 1, 13 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Huang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,829,000). It is respectfully submitted, however, that these claims are now patentable over the cited art for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1, as amended, includes features neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited art, namely:

... inputting an utterance ... comprised of a plurality of word-strings ... each include one or more words ...

... determining candidates of word-strings ... by performing speech recognition processing on one of the plurality of word strings ...

... displaying the candidates ...

... selecting one of the displayed candidates by a user ...

... said candidate determining step (b), said displaying step (c) and said selecting step (d) are repeated for each successive word-string in said utterance until an end of the utterance is reached ... (Emphasis added)

These features are disclosed, for example, p. 9, line 14- p.12, line 16, and Figure 3.

Huang '000 disclose that a computer speech recognition system (CSR) has a recognition component and a dictation editing component. The recognition component

controls receiving of the series of utterances from the speaker, recognizing each utterance, and sending a recognition word for each utterance to the dictation editing component. The dictation editing component displays the recognized words and allows a user to correct words that were misrecognized. (Column 1, lines 26-33). Huang '000 further disclose that their invention relates to a dictation editing component that allows the editing of dictation produced by a CSR system. (Column 2, lines 61-63). Thus, Huang '000 first recognize an utterance and then allow a user to correct the recognized utterance, after recognition on the entire utterance is performed, using the dictation editing component. The user can correct a word or a phrase of the recognized utterance with the dictation editing component (col. 5, line 66- col. 6, line 15).

Huang '000 do not disclose or suggest Applicants claimed features of "(a) determining candidates of word-strings ... by performing speech recognition processing on one of the plurality of word strings of the utterance ... (b) displaying the candidates ... (c) selecting one of the displayed candidates by a user ... step (b), ... step (c) and ... step (d) are repeated for each successive word-string in said utterance until an end of the utterance is reached ..." (emphasis added). More specifically, Applicants perform speech recognition on successive word-strings of an utterance using a user-selected candidate for a current word-string within the utterance. Thus, correction of misrecognition is performed during the recognition procedure of an utterance.

For example, assume the spoken utterance "the cat in the hat" is being processed. Huang '000 will process this utterance by first performing speech recognition by the recognition component on the entire utterance "the cat in the hat". Next, the recognized utterance is presented to the user as text, for example, having one error as "the mat in the hat". Next, a user may select the misrecognized word "mat", if he desires to correct the word. A user is not required to correct the word. If the user desires to correct the word, the user selects the misrecognized word "mat" and the dictation editing component selects alternative words from a recognized word list and presents the alternative words to the user. (Col. 3, line 23-33). The user may then select a correct word if one of the alternate words matches the spoken utterance.

By contrast, Applicants claim 1 will process the sentence by first processing a word-string portion of the utterance, for example, "the cat" to determine candidates

based on that portion of the spoken utterance. Next, candidates such as "a bat", "the cat", and "to mat" are displayed. Next, a user selects a best match, for example, "the cat". Next, steps of speech recognition processing to determine candidates, display of candidates, and user-selection of candidates are repeated on a successive word-string, for example "in the". The process is repeated until the end of the utterance "hat" is reached. Thus, a user selects from among displayed word-strings as determined by determining candidates step of Applicants method. Furthermore, a user-selection is performed at each successive word-string until the end of the utterance is reached. These features are neither disclosed nor suggested by Huang '000. Thus, Huang '000 do not include all of the features of the amended claim 1. Applicants claimed features provide an advantage over Huang '000 by requiring less storage capacity and less computation by performing speech recognition on word-strings rather than on an entire inputted utterance. Accordingly, allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Although not identical to claim 1, claim 13 includes features similar to amended claim 1 which are not disclosed or suggested in the cited art, namely, performing speech recognition on successive word-strings of an utterance using a user-selected candidate for a current word-string within the utterance. Accordingly, allowance of claim 13 is respectfully requested.

Although not identical to claim 1, claim 17 includes features similar to amended claim 1 which are not disclosed or suggested in the cited art, namely, performing speech recognition on successive word-strings of an utterance using a user-selected candidate for a current word-string within the utterance. Accordingly, allowance of claim 17 is respectfully requested.

Claim 21 includes all of the features of claim 1 from which it depends. Accordingly, claim 21 is also patentable over the cited art.

Claims 3-12, 15-16, 19-20 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang '000 in view of Huang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,937,384). Claims 16 and 20 have been cancelled. Claims 3-4, however, also include all of the features of claim 1 from which they depend. Huang '384 does not make up for the features that are lacking in Huang '000. Accordingly, claims 3 and 4 are also patentable over the cited art.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 5-12 are now patentable over the cited art for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 5, as amended, includes features neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited art, namely:

...an input section for inputting an utterance ... comprised of a plurality of word-strings .. include one or more words;

...a word candidate preparing section for preparing a following word candidate from a fixed word-string...

...a word-string preparing section for preparing word-string candidates ... from the extracted feature amount of one of the plurality of word-strings of the utterance and from the word candidate...

...an operating section for a user to select one of the word-string candidates ... forming the fixed word-string...

...candidate-preparation instructing section for instructing said word candidate preparing section to prepare the following word candidate from the fixed word-string...

...said word-string preparing section repeats preparation of said word-string candidates for each successive word-string in said utterance using said following word candidate until the end of the utterance is reached... (Emphasis added)

These features are disclosed, for example, p. 7, line 1 - p.9, line 2, and Figure 1.

Although not identical to claim 1, amended claim 5 includes features similar to amended claim 1 which are not disclosed or suggested in the cited art. Huang '000 is discussed above. Huang '384 does not make up for the features that are lacking in Huang '000. Namely, apparatus for performing speech recognition on successive word-strings of an utterance using a user-selected candidate for a current word-string within the utterance. Accordingly, allowance of claim 5 is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-12 include all of the features of claim 5 from which they depend. Accordingly, claims 6-12 are also patentable over the cited art.

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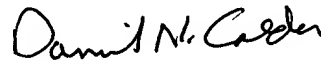
Claim 15 includes all of the features of claim 13 from which it depends. Huang '384 does not make up for the features that are lacking in Huang '000. Accordingly, claim 15 is also patentable over the cited art.

Claim 19 includes all of the features of claim 17 from which it depends. Huang '384 does not make up for the features that are lacking in Huang '000. Accordingly, claim 19 is also patentable over the cited art.

Claim 22 includes all of the features of any one of claims 1, 5, 13 and 17 from which it may depend. Huang '384 does not make up for the features that are lacking in Huang '000. Accordingly, claim 22 is also patentable over the cited art.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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